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Soc. Sci.

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HOWARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Local Angle:

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service—or have a direct news inquiry—you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Assistant Regional Directors for Information and the states in their regions:

Region I ..... Paul F. Neal
Room E-308
JFK Federal Bldg.
Boston, Mass. 02203
617-223-6767

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

Region II ..... Edward I. Weintraub
Room 3510
1515 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10036
212-971-5477

New Jersey
New York
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

Region III ..... John P. Hord
14280 Gateway Bldg.
3535 Market St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104
215-597-1139

Delaware
District of Columbia
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Virginia
West Virginia

Region IV ..... William I. Allgood
Room 317
1371 Peachtree St., N.E.
Atlanta, Ga. 30309
404-526-5495

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Kentucky

Region V ..... John D. Mellott
12th Floor
300 S. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Ill. 60606
312-353-6976

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
Ohio
Wisconsin

Region VI ..... Les Gaddie
Federal Bldg. &
U.S. Courthouse
Room 7C42
1100 Commerce St.
Dallas, Tex. 75202
214-749-2308

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

Region VII ..... Neal A. Johnson
Federal Office Bldg.
Room 1904
911 Walnut St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64106
816-374-5481

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Region VIII ..... Ernest E. Sanchez
Room 16408
Federal Bldg.
1961 Stout St.
Denver, Co. 80202
303-837-4234

Colorado
Montana
North Dakota
South Dakota
Utah
Wyoming

Region IX ..... Tor Torland
Room 10007
Federal Bldg.
450 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, Calif. 94102
415-556-3423

Arizona
California
Hawaii
Nevada

Region X ..... Ernest Hood
Arcade Plaza
Room 2034
1321 Second Ave.
Seattle, Wash. 98101
296-442-7620

Alaska
Idaho
Oregon
Washington

BARBARA HANCOCK: BLACK PEOPLE SHOULD BE 'SURFACED MORE' TO GET AHEAD

WASHINGTON -- When Barbara W. Hancock leaves the U.S. Department of Labor in August as a White House Fellow, she will take with her a unique awareness of the federal government.

One of 17 White House Fellows assigned to work a year with one of President Nixon's cabinet members or with White House staff members, Ms. Hancock says the program "is a very worthwhile chance and opportunity."

"But, unfortunately, most blacks don't travel in circles where whites traditionally find out about programs such as this," she adds.

As special assistant to Under Secretary of Labor Richard F. Schubert, she has helped in preparing departmental policies and programs, such as the one helping migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

During the year as a White House Fellow, Ms. Hancock has learned about local and federally sponsored programs. She has visited numerous cities throughout the country to observe and analyze educational processes, current political issues, and local and state government structures as they relate to the federal government.

She also visited West Africa, South Africa, Europe, and Moscow. On this tour, she observed developing social and political policies of those nations.

A native of Coraopolis, Penn, Ms. Hancock is a graduate of Howard University with a B.A. in government. She received her M.A. from Newark State College, and was certified as a principal through Glassboro State College, N.J.

Ms. Hancock says, "Minorities still have a long way to go in terms of being accepted for positions requiring executive excellence or in

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positions of power in our society. Blacks have not yet been accepted into these kinds of areas. Those who will be accepted are limited, and it will not be an easy struggle for them, or anyone, who decides to take on that kind of challenge."

Ms. Hancock is co-author of "The Slums", a book on the various types of slum situations, and factors causing their existence.

She was a hostess on "Express Yourself", a bi-weekly half-hour television program from the black perspective aired in Trenton, N.J.

"Blacks should be in every area of the communications industry. It is a new arena for us and we should be in the management levels, on the camera, behind the scenes, and in the investment end of it. The black experience is one which encompasses all areas and should not limit itself," she says.

Ms. Hancock would like to see more blacks in higher level executive and administrative positions in the U.S. Department of Labor. Convinced that the Labor Department has progressed more than other government agencies, Ms. Hancock feels there are qualified blacks throughout the country whose expertise should be utilized to a greater extent in all government agencies.

"Blacks, "she says, "should be surfaced more, so they can take advantage of existing opportunities."

# # #

MANPOWER PROGRAMS FOR BLACKS, DISADVANTAGED
EXTENDED WITH LABOR DEPARTMENT FUNDS

Atlanta -- Manpower Programs for disadvantaged and jobless persons including a substantial number of blacks, have received additional federal funds to continue operation.

The programs are administered by the Labor Department's Manpower Administration. They include the New Careers program, offering jobs and training in fields such as education, recreation, community relations and social services; on-the-job training under the Job Opportunities in the Business Sector (JOBS) program, and classroom-type training in various occupational fields.

More than $1 million has been approved to continue operation of the projects, according to William U. Norwood, the Labor Department's assistant regional director for manpower.

Details of the projects follow:

In North Carolina, the City of Raleigh has received $119,230 to open up "New Careers" in fields such as education, recreation, community relations and social services to 45 poor and unemployed adults in Wake County.

Contracts under the Job Opportunities in the Business Sector (JOBS) program were awarded to:

-- Covil Insulation Co. of Greenville, S.C., to hire and train 20 unemployed persons from Guilford and Forsyth counties. Under the $41,592 contract, participants will receive sheet metal worker preapprentice training at the Blews Creek, N.C., plant.

-- Two contracts with Angell Manufacturing Company, Division of Lamson and Session, provide for hiring and training 130 persons from

(MORE)

Marion and Lincoln counties as punch press operator, anodizer and press operator. The federal investment will be $306,676.

-- Bradston-Rattan Products of Tampa, Florida, will hire and train 16 persons as furniture assemblers under a $33,966 contract.

Classroom-type instruction will be offered to 215 persons from Forsyth County, N.C., for training as secretary, general office clerk, clerk typist, auto mechanic and carpenter. The federal investment will be $361,348.

In Kentucky, 52 persons will receive training as licensed practical nurse, maintenance man and clerk stenographer. Supported by $156,617 in federal funds, the program covers 12 counties and is sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Education.

In Florida, classroom-type training will be provided 18 persons in various occupations according to needs of the areas. The federal government will pay $63,540 toward the training.

These programs will eventually be operated by local prime sponsors under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA), intended to establish a decentralized system of manpower programs more flexible to local needs.

# # #

PAINTINGS BY BLACK ARTIST DISPLAYED IN SHOW
SPONSORED BY LABOR DEPARTMENT'S WOMEN'S BUREAU

WASHINGTON -- Paintings by Barbara Ward-Morris, a black artist from Massachusetts, were included in a show to display works of American women artists, sponsored by the U.S. Labor Department's Women's Bureau.

The show at the Labor Department here included 25 entries by five artists. It's aim was "to focus some attention on women artists."

Carmen R. Maymi, director of the Women's Bureau, emphasized that the art display "is one more way of awakening the public's sensitivity to the concerns and potential of women."

The four paintings by Ms. Ward-Morris are entitled: "Ever Burst A Balloon," "The Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste," "Woman is Earth" and "Creation: We Were all Wrapped in Swaddling Clothes."

Ms. Ward-Morris, 25, a native of North Carolina, lives in Roxbury, Mass. She has been a coordinator for "Summerthing," a project of the Mayor's Office in Boston, has worked in Head Start, painted a mural for the Children's Building, Boston City Hospital, and a sidewalk mural on Center Street, West Roxbury, and has entered various art shows in Boston.

The open house art show also included works by Wilma Parker, a San Francisco artist and native of Springfield, Mass.; Naomi Peachy of New York, Tina Prentiss of Massachusetts, and Folly Fodor of Bethesda, Md.

The paintings of Ward-Morris, Prentiss, and Fodor will remain on display until September and may be seen by appointment by phoning the Women's Bureau, (202) 961-2036.

Ms. Maymi said, "There are many other women artists who should be recognized. I only hope the project will serve to call attention to the contribution women artists are making to the cultural development of our Nation.

"Perhaps it will serve as a model for other agencies and organizations," she added.

# # #

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BLACK UNIVERSITY TO TRAIN
MANPOWER ADMINISTRATORS

WASHINGTON -- North Carolina A & T State University, Greensboro, N.C., is one of 13 universities selected to train manpower administrators and planners under grants totaling $1.5 million, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan has announced.

Each of the 10 Federal regions has one of the universities within its jurisdiction . Three additional universities were selected, without regard to regions, to give special emphasis and training for blacks, American Indians, and Hispanic Americans.

Funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, the grants will enable the universities to supply states and local communities with skilled staff needed to administer newly decentralized manpower programs.

The universities will initially develop manpower curricula to strengthen the technical abilities of current manpower program administrators and create a future source of well-trained manpower planners, evaluators, and practitioners.

The selected colleges and universities are planning a four-year curriculum and have been awarded grants in the $100,000 range for the first-year effort.

The grants begin July 1, and will be renewable year by year based on the school's achievements and performance.

Other special grants to predominatly ethnic institutions went to:

-- Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas, Ralph F. Schilling, President, with significant Spanish-speaking enrollment.

-- Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla., Robert B. Kamm, president, with significant Indian enrollment.

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Successful applicants from among the 145 colleges and universities that submitted proposals were:

-- Region I -- Boston University, Boston, Mass., John R. Sibler, president.

-- Region II -- State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y., Robert L. Ketter, president.

-- Region III -- West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.Va., James G. Harlow, president.

-- Region IV -- Memphis State University, Memphis, Tenn., John Richardson, president; in cooperation with University of Mississippi at University, Miss.

-- Region V -- Oakland University, Rochester, Mich., Donald D. O'Dowd, president.

-- Region VI -- University of Houston, Houston, Texas, Philip G. Hoffman, president; in cooperation with North Texas State University, Denton, Texas.

-- Region VII -- University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., Herbert W. Schooling, chancellor.

-- Region VIII -- University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, David P. Gardner, president.

-- Region IX -- San Francisco State University, San Francisco, Calif., Paul F. Romberg, president.

-- Region X -- Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore., Robert W. MacVicar, president.

* * *

CHARLESTON JOB CORPS CENTER
FOR WOMEN GETS FEDERAL FUNDS

PHILADELPHIA -- Operation of the Charleston Job Corps Center for Women in West Virginia will continue for another two years under a $3.9 million contract, J. Terrell Whitsitt, the U.S. Labor Department's assistant regional director for manpower has announced.

Whitsitt noted that last year about 78 percent of the center's enrollees were young black women, 16 to 21 years of age.

About 665 Job Corps enrollees went through the center last year, with about 330 still there as of June 30, 1973, he added.

The Charleston Job Corps Center for Women has facilities for up to 345 young women. On the average, they remain at the center between four to six months, but they may stay up to two years.

Under the new contract, 320 of the residential training openings will be for youths from West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Another 25 will be residents of the Charleston area.

The Charleston center, operated by Teledyne Economic Development Co. of Los Angeles, will provide training in various occupations -- food service, clerk-typist, keypunch operator, offset duplicating machine operator, nurses' aid, and Railway Express agent and clerk and train clerk.

The Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks, AFL-CIO, will conduct transportation clerical training for 40 Corpswomen. Some vocational training is conducted at nearby public and private vocational schools.

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In addition to vocational training, Job Corps enrollees also receive academic training leading to a high school equivalency certificate, health education training, driver education and counseling.

The Job Corps program, administered by the Labor Department's Manpower Administration, had 43,400 new enrollees in the fiscal year 1973.

On a national basis, black youths represented 59 percent of all new enrollees during this period.

The Job Corps provides educational and vocational training to disadvantaged and unemployed youths 16 to 21 years of age.

# # #

110 MINORITY YOUTHS
TO BECOME APPRENTICES

WASHINGTON -- Some 110 Detroit-area minority youths -- blacks, Hispanos, American Indians -- will be prepared by union members for apprenticeship examinations in the construction trades, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan has announced.

Under the $120,300, one-year contract, the Trade Union Leadership Council (TULC), will recruit, counsel and tutor minority youths so they can pass entrance examinations for apprenticeship in the construction trades in such occupations as bricklayer, electrician, pipefitter and sheet metal worker.

The youths receive eight weeks of intensive instruction.

Under six previous contracts supported by $589,000 in federal funds, TULC placed 583 applicants in apprenticeship. In all, TULC worked with about 6,000 applicants, an average of 1,000 per year.

The principal trades in which applicants have been placed are: carpentry, electrical, pipefitting, plumbing, sheet metal, and asbestos worker. The average starting wage, including fringe benefits, has been $6.63 per hour.

Project director is Ms. Marquerite Evans, TULC, 8718 Grand River Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48204. Telephone: (313) 898-4444.

# # #

EMPLOYERS GIVEN TWO MORE MONTHS
TO FILE APPLICATIONS FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

WASHINGTON -- Employers authorized to employ full-time students under the Fair Labor Standards Act at subminimum wages have been given an additional two months to file applications with the nearest regional office of the Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor.

These include agricultural and retail or service establishments and institutions of higher education.

Bernard E. DeLury, assistant secretary of labor for employment standards, said that the grace period permitting employers to hire immediately, without waiting to complete and submit the new forms, has been extended through Aug. 31.

An initial period ending June 30 had been established when the new Fair Labor Standards Act amendments became effective May 1, 1974.

DeLury said the additional time is necessary due to the large number of applications still to be distributed, completed and acted on.

He said such employment of full-time students at subminimum wages without certificates continues to be conditioned upon:

(a) Full-time student employment not exceeding the proportions permitted in the regulations;

(b) Payment of not less than 85 percent of the minimum wage applicable under Section 6 of the Act;

(c) Compliance with the requirements respecting permissible hours of employment during the day or week, oppressive child labor, employment only outside of school hours, abnormal labor conditions and higher wage standards in other laws or in agreements; and

(MORE)

(d) Provision for the payment of back wages to full-time students if a certificate is denied or if employment during the grace period exceeds the finally authorized limit.

Employers or employees may obtain more detailed information from their local Wage-Hour Division Office, usually listed in telephone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Labor.

# # #

D.C. FEDERAL OFFICE TO RECEIVE JOB SAFETY COMPLAINTS

WASHINGTON -- Employee complaints of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions in the District of Columbia should be reported to the new field office here of the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The office, at 400 First Street, NW , Room 411, is staffed by two federal compliance officers (inspectors), James E. Vaughan and Theodore E. Harris. They schedule all workplace inspections under an agreement with the District of Columbia.

Under the agreement with OSHA, the District received $196,879 in federal funds to finance 50 percent of the cost of enforcement activity. The agreement is for one year, or until D. C. and OSHA draw up a job safety and health plan acceptable to OSHA that will cover all D. C. workers on a permanent basis.

Nine inspectors of the D. C. Industrial Safety Commission--all OSHA trained--have conducted 95 inspections since beginning the program in April. As a result, OSHA has issued citations alleging 10 serious and 45 nonserious violations of federal job safety and health regulations.

Vaughan and Harris will coordinate D. C. jobsite inspections, conduct follow-up inspections, and answer calls to catastrophes or imminent danger situations.

The OSHA field office telephone numbers are (202) 961-5132 and 961-5133.

# # #

OSHA SEEKS COMMENT ON GROUND-FAULT
CIRCUIT PROTECTION SAFETY STANDARD

WASHINGTON--The Labor Department has requested public comment on a suggested job safety standard concerning ground-fault circuit protection.

The devices, installed between a power source and electrical hand tools, are designed to cut off power to the tool if power leakages endanger the operator.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) deferred a job safety requirement that the devices be required on electrical outlets at construction sites by Jan. 1, 1974.

The deferred rule had been adopted as an OSHA construction safety standard from the 1971 National Electrical Code.

Subsequent to this action, OSHA sought public comment and held a public hearing on the issue. Almost 100 separate representations resulted.

"Evaluation of these comments leads us to believe that there might be a need for wider application of the safety rule," said Assistant Secretary of Labor John H. Stender, head of OSHA.

Stender said OSHA therefore is considering proposing a standard that would apply to all 120-volt, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles used by employees in wet, damp or muddy locations, or in such conductive locations as exposed structural steel, or other large grounded metallic surfaces. Examples would include vehicle repair and service bays, wet scrubbing areas, vehicle washing areas, inside metal tanks or boilers, and outdoors.

Under the suggested rules, ground fault current cut off level would be set at 5 milliamperes, plus or minus 1. Devices with a trip level of 4 milliamperes or lower could be continued in use at the employer's option, however.

Receptacles used to power fixed lighting, and receptacles on a portable

(MORE)

generator where conductors and the generator frame are insulated from earth and all grounded surfaces, would be excluded from the suggested requirements.

Public comments on the suggested standard should be submitted by Aug. 9 to the OSHA Docket Officer, Room 220-MNWA, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C. 20210.

Comments on suitable alternatives to the suggested standards, supported work-injury exposure experience involving 120-volt A.C. circuits, and supported cost data on estimates of coming into compliance with the suggested standard, were also requested.

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OSHA ALERTS FARM EMPLOYERS TO ERROR
IN UPDATED JOB SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor has alerted farm employers that updated job safety and health standards issued June 27 erroneously include a pesticide reentry standard.

Officials of the Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) said the standard, prescribing reentry intervals for 12 pesticides used in treating five crop categories, was included in the update through an administrative oversight. It should be disregarded.

The rule appears on pages 23780-82 of the June 27 Federal Register. It originally had appeared in the Federal Register June 19, 1973, as an amendment to OSHA's emergency temporary standard on pesticides. The rule was later invalidated by court injunction.

# # #

World of Work

Job Prospects Good For Job Corps Grads

By PETER J. BRENNAN
Secretary of Labor

QUESTION: I have been thinking about joining the Job Corps for training. What chance will I have of getting a job if I complete my Job Corps trsining?

ANSWER: Your chances of getting a job after completing your Job Corps training are better than ever. The Job Corps has recently recorded the best six months in its nine-year history in placing young men and women in jobs. During the last half of 1973, 70 percent of those leaving the Job Corps received jobs at an average starting pay of $2.23 an hour. Ninety-seven percent of the graduates of a group of union-run programs at Job Corps centers obtained jobs at beginning rates averaging $3.58 an hour. Of all those leaving Job Corps centers during the six months, 18 percent reentered school and 5 percent joined the Armed Forces.

• • • •

QUESTION: I have read that women workers earn, on the average, only 58 percent of what men earn. Doesn't the Equal Pay Act outlaw such discrepencies?

ANSWER: The earnings gap between men and women workers does not reflect wholesale violation of the Equal Pay Act. While it is true that some employers do not comply with the law, most of the difference in the median earnings of men and women is accounted for by the fact that women workers are concentrated in jobs requiring little skill and paying low wages; 18 percent were in service occupations other than private household work, and 14 percent were operatives, mainly in factories. Only 15 percent were in professional and technical jobs and 5 percent were managers, officials and proprietors. The Labor Department is working to remove wage discrepancies between men and women through vigorous enforcement of the Equal Pay Act and by promoting equal employment opportunities for women and minorities.

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Editor's note: If you have a question regarding job training and placement, labor-management relations, job health and safety, equal employment opportunity, wages and hours, employment and unemployment, prices and earnings and other matters involving the U.S. Department of Labor, send it to:

Peter J. Brennan
Secretary of Labor
"World of Work"
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20210

How & Why of Utility Rates

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Since the energy shortage became a national issue, I have received letters from many consumers questioning the higher rates that are being charged for electricity and natural gas. I would like to quote from one, which, I think, typifies the consumer's frustration:

> **"The problem is that [utility companies], with the approval of government agencies, will raise the cost of their services so that the consumer in the end will pay exactly the same amount of money to them as he did before he started to save electricity. Isn't it discouraging to realize that one has to work within the system, where . . . absolutely nothing can be done to help the consumer."**

This letter points to a major consumer complaint resulting from the energy shortage: Although consumers are trying to cut down on their use of energy, their utility bills continue to climb. Even more frustrating is the fact that because energy consumption has dropped, many utility companies are now seeking rate increases.

Why is this so, and what can be done about it?

According to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, utility companies—which supply you with electricity and natural gas—are regulated at the state level by the regulatory utility commission. The commission decides what rate consumers must pay for power. In deciding this rate, the commission takes into account the utility's cost of doing business and what is a fair profit for the company.

This may all sound simple, but it gets more complicated when the energy shortage is taken into account.

Although some consumers believe utility companies are part of the oil industry, the fact is that utilities have to buy the oil and natural gas necessary to power homes and office buildings at premium prices. To offset these increased costs, some companies have found it necessary to seek what is commonly referred to as a "pass-through" rate increase—rates paid by consumers are increased to cover the additional costs of the fuel. But this rate increase does not allow for any increases in profits—the profit rate is fixed by the state utility commission and must remain the same.

Aside from fuel costs, the energy shortage has affected utility costs in another way. As NARUC explained it, utility companies set rates to cover their costs and to get profits allowed by their state. However, when consumption drops sharply, as in the case of the energy shortage, sales of electricity or gas could drop below the break-even point. This could result in a rate increase to bring sales up to the former level.

If you want information about how utility rate increases are developed in your state, contact your state's regulatory utility commission. You might ask specifically about public hearings being held or being planned to adjust utility rates. Each state's utility commission must hold public hearings—along with an investigation of the utility company—before granting a rate increase.

Consumers are not only entitled but also welcome to attend these hearings. Also, consumers are allowed to see records of hearings. These hearings and records are an ideal way for consumers to monitor the workings of their state's commission and to speak up about the commission's effectiveness or fairness.

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Unemployment falls most heavily on workers with the least education, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook.

* * *

Eighty percent of citations issued under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 have involved only five percent of the safety and health standards that have been issued under the law, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

* * *

About five percent of citations issued under the Occupational Safety and Health Act are contested by employers, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

* * *

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics plans to issue two consumer price indexes starting in 1977, one for urban wage earners and clerical workers and a broader index for all urban households.

* * *

The amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act that went into effect May 1, 1974, brought to 538,000 the number of farm workers with federal minimum wage protection, according to the U.S. Department of Labor

* * *